

Saudi Arabia official 'was CIA link'

By RICHARD BEESTON
in Washington

MR CYRUS VANCE has returned to Washington to begin planning a second round of meetings with Middle East leaders amid a new crop of embarrassing Press allegations about foreign personalities with ties to the CIA.

The Secretary of State reports to President Carter today on his Mid-East trip and beginning next month will receive a stream of visitors from Israel and the Arab world to prepare for another trip to the Middle-East in the summer.

Among the latest names to join King Hussein as "a friend of America" in the *Washington Post* is Kamal Adham, head of national security in Saudi Arabia, and President Sadat of Egypt. A *Post* story from Paris identifies Adham as the liaison man with the CIA.

The newspaper says King Hussein and Adham are two of the most important Arab policymakers with close ties to the CIA. It also alleges that while President Nasser was trying to overthrow the Saudi regime in the 1960s Adham cultivated the then Vice-President Sadat and provided him "with a steady private income."

The impression that America can no longer keep a secret is inhibiting her foreign role and is summed up by the story that a foreign ambassador recently told Mrs. Armstrong, the United States Ambassador to London, that he would not say anything to her that he did not want to read in the *New York Times* the next morning.

Curb on officials

Mr Vance is reported to have said that reports concerning King Hussein could not have come at a worse moment to hurt his standing in the Arab world. Since the report was leaked President Carter has ordered a drastic cut-back in the number of officials with access to highly secret information.

Mr Alan Cranston, Senate majority Whip, said yesterday that Mr Carter had decided to reduce from 40 to five the officials privy to top-secret intelligence data and "he also hoped Congress would do the same."

Adul Stansfield Turner, President Carter's candidate to be head of the CIA, told the Senate yesterday that disclosures of wrong doing had damaged the public reputation of the CIA but that he intended to restore public confidence and credibility in the agency.

Meanwhile a story appearing yesterday in the *Wall Street Journal* said that while the CIA was paying millions of dollars to King Hussein it was also paying large sums to the Israeli Government in the 1960s to help finance foreign aid projects in African nations.

The object was to bolster Israel's standing in Black Africa and the CIA money helped Israel provide military and technical assistance to President Amin's regime in Uganda and other African states.